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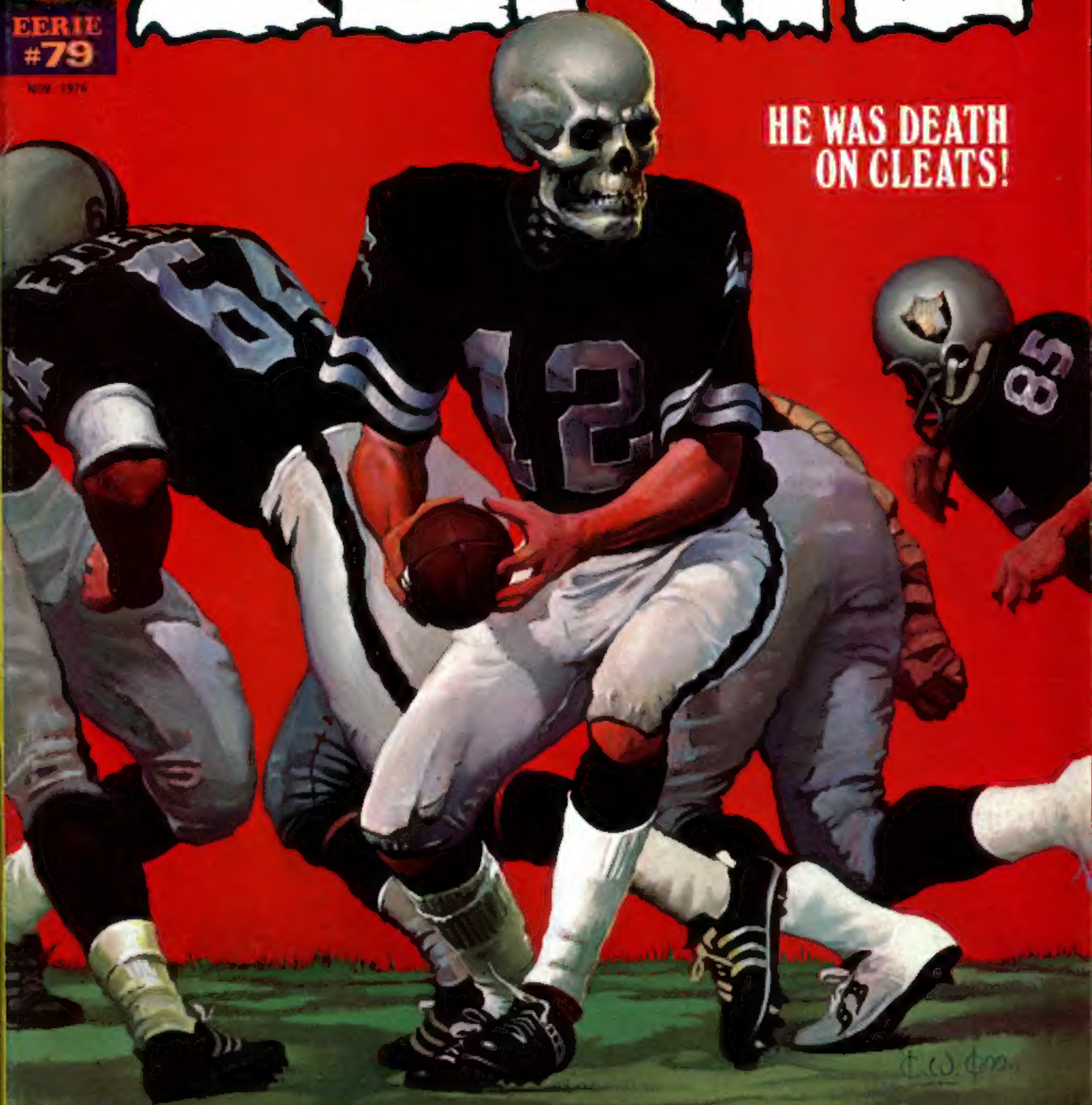
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**EERIE**  
#79  
NEW 1976

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# EERIE

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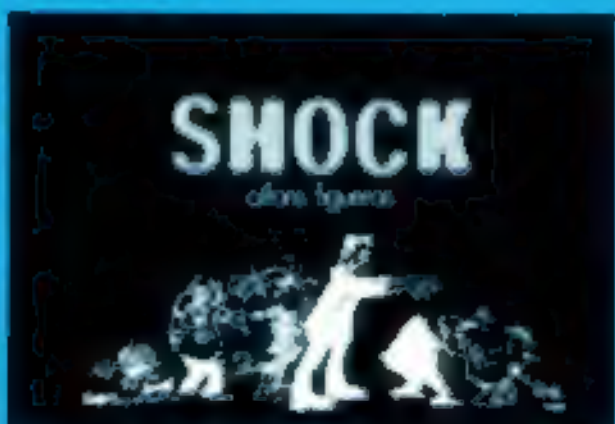
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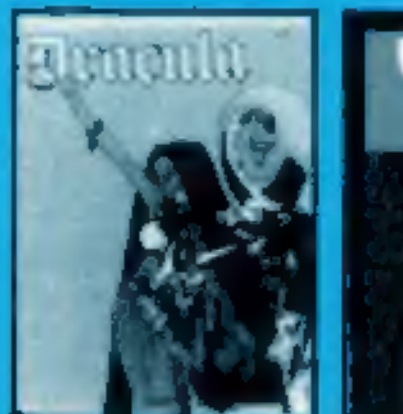
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# EERIE

**CONTENTS** **ISSUE No. 79**  
**NOVEMBER 1976**

**4 DEAR COUSIN EERIE** "Within You Without You," Rich Corben's new series garnered lots of praise. And EERIE readers simply couldn't say enough about his cover. It was an all around favorite! EERIE #77...an exciting crowd pleaser!

**5 TIME & TIME AGAIN** Jeff journeyed to the past to rescue trapped time-traveler, Linda. In doing so he lost his life. But what mattered most was his missing gun. Linda must retrieve the weapon...or risk a chance of changing history!

**15 BRANCATELLI: COMIC BOOKS** The beloved Burroughs characters temporarily lost a home in comics when National ceased publication of their adventures. Who will pick up the option? Which company will be next to publish Tarzan's exploits?

**16 THE PEA GREEN BOAT** "I've lined our sailboat's hull with plates of lead and steel," bragged Al Green. "Below is enough ammo to equip an army!" "No!" screamed his partner. "You're mad!" But Al's madness was survivor's deadly sanity!

**24 DARKLON: THE PRICE** Mystic sorcerer, beyond men's law though he was, Darklon still retained some faith...some human feelings...some love for the man he called Father. And now he had discovered that his father was trying to kill him!

**33 THIRD PERSON SINGULAR** Lee's was a world populated by men. Babies were created in test tubes. There were no women. And those rare, condemned few with heterosexual longings were hunted...destroyed by government controlled Snuffers!

**43 SAM'S SON AND DELILAH** Sam's deaf-mute son didn't need ears to paint. The kid was a genius. But Sam did not care. Because his kid was a natural at something better. Football! And that talent meant more than the boy himself!

# Dear Cousin Eerie...

**Jim Starlin.** The name conjures up images of sophisticated, imaginative storylines, coupled with the most powerful, dynamic artwork in the business. His work can only be described in superlatives.

His prorotypal story, is epic in scope, multi-leveled, philosophically informed, yet action and story flow are never neglected. While comics fans are weeping and gnashing their teeth at his departure from Marvel, where should he show up but in the pages of a **Warren** mag?

"Darkon the Mystic" has all the elements of **Starlin** at his best. It has the potential to equal, even surpass, previous triumphs. By all means, more **Darkon!**

"Wolfer O'Connell" presented us with a nicely unconventional hero. **Wolfer** is just the kind of cantankerous old cuss to grow on you, and **Budd Lewis** is handled him perfectly.

I am a bit doubtful that a seasoned survivor like **Wolfer** would have forgotten his cartridges, but that was a minor point. **Luis Bermejo** has developed into a **Warren** artist of excellence. His artwork on "Wolfer" brought the tale to graphic life.

**ED O'REILLY**  
Ada, Ohio

"The Moonweavers" fills a real need in a generation that all too often lost its sense of wonder... that won't give a tad time enough to become a trend.

Speaking as a comic fan, and a member of the "immediate gratification" generation, I feel a "sense of wonder" when confronted with stories like "Deliver The Child"... and at the same time, feel deeply my generation's loss of innocence.

Comic stories often treat kids and teenagers like foreigners. Writers generally either make them too "cute"... or too adult. And kids are, after all, kids.

But "Moonweavers" is proof that people under eighteen can be written as adult characters with as much humanity and complexity. Have we so easily forgotten **Brains Benton** or the **Hardy Boys**?

"Moonweavers," by its very quality, emphasizes the gross character defamation perpetrated on teens and pre-teens by other comic companies.

The "Moonweavers" series deserves a medal of honor! My only complaint was that the episode in **EERIE** #76 seemed a bit rushed. Perhaps "the Moonweavers" deserves a full issue.

**BOB ALLEN**  
Laredo, Tex.

"Tales of Peter Hypnos" continues to be one of the most delightful series in comics! **Jose Bea's** whimsical storyline and daringly outrageous art are both entertaining and mindful of a genre all but lost to modern readers. Visually stunning, a literary absurdity, an expressionistic fantasy. "Tales of Peter Hypnos" is all these things and more!

Each installment is more engrossing than the last and the art just gets more and more bizarre!

This is one series you could turn forever and there'd always be at least one fan who'd never be bored... me!

**ALAN FRANKLIN**  
Attleboro, Mass.

**Joe Brancatelli's** column in **EERIE** #76 is a perfect example of the kind of egocentric Monday morning quarterbacking the comics industry can do without.

Since comics were "never quite the cultural font some would have us believe," why does he waste his time reading them? It is hard to accept constructive criticism from a man who obviously doesn't respect the field in which he purports to be an expert, so if **Warren** is going to devote a column to comics, at least put it in the hands of someone who seeks to boost the industry, not someone who merely wants a platform for his own frustrations.

**RICHARD COLLIER**  
Denver, Colo.

**EERIE** #76 was good, but not classic.

The cover by **Sanjulian** was great, the best he's put out lately.

Inside, **Budd Lewis' "Deliver the Child"** was a disappointment... the ending was really low.

The second story ("Wolfer O'Connell: Highsong") was not too hot either. The idea of an old mountain man battling a... (what was that thing? The proverbial big-foot?) was good. It's too bad that **Budd Lewis** failed to develop it beyond a simply interesting idea.

The last three stories, however, saved the issue; they were great!

**Bill DuBay** and **Esteban Maroto's** "Oogie and the Scroungers" was the highlight of the issue. A terrific spoof!

"Tales of Peter Hypnos" was great as usual. **Jose Bea** is a master of fantasy.

And "Darkon, the Mystic" by **Jim Starlin** was incredible... fantastic! Hope this remains a regular series.

**TOMMY McCARTER**  
Knoxville, Tenn.

I've been reading **FM** for ages, but I am very new to the **Warren** line of comics.

My first issue was **EERIE** #74, but from the looks of things, I will be staying with you as long as your books retain the same high quality of **EERIE's** #74, 75, and 76!

**STUART GARDNER**  
Brunswick, Ga.

**EERIE** #76 was what I'd term a progressive issue: the stories became better as the issue went on.

**Sanjulian's** cover was excellent and humorously symbolic. Picturing the Internal Revenue Service as an ugly, many tentacled monster was a stroke of genius!

**SAMMY JONES**  
Brandon, Mass.

I am enchanted with the variety of facial expressions which are used in the pages of **EERIE**. Every character maintains his personality through expression, even if he is a gremlin or ghost.

I may be a giddy fool, but a dollar isn't too much to spend on such foolishness. And the next time I go to the family drugstore, I hope I'll have this printed letter to show the clerk!

**KIM REAM**  
Albuquerque, N.M.

The 76th issue of **EERIE** was notable mainly for the first time appearance of the fantastically talented **Jim Starlin** in the pages of a **Warren** magazine. Unfortunately his work here doesn't come anywhere near the level of quality he's displayed elsewhere. The story of space opera vengeance was overly familiar, far below his extensive imaginative powers. The ending, however, implies that this may become a series... and all complaints aside, I am looking forward to the kind of adventure **Starlin** does better than anyone else.

Other highlights this issue were **Jose Bea's** "Peter Hypnos" tale. Although the series is beginning to show the first pangs of an idea being exhausted in a writer's mind, I still enjoyed this latest surrealistic mixture of **Sgt. Pepper** and **Monty Python**.

**Budd Lewis** wrote a surprisingly memorable trade-with-the-devil story in "Deliver the Child." The characters were the kind I'd like to see more than once!

**Leopold Sanchez's** softer art style is a refreshing change from his usual heavy black strokes, a la **Jose Ortiz**.

The cover was not one of **Sanjulian's** better efforts. The girl's upper torso seems oddly distorted and the creature looks like something out of "Brain from Planet Arous," with **John Agar!**

**GARY KIMBER**  
Ontario, Can.

"The Demons of Jeremiah Gold" in **EERIE** #75 was disgusting! What's the purpose of putting those loathsome bodies on the splash page? **Ars gratia artis?** Rather, sensationalism gratia sensationalism!

How many times have we heard that your ultimate goal was to entertain? Many times! Yet we're periodically "treated" to **Bill DuBay's** displays of ugliness and bloodshed, accompanied by explicit text describing "steaming guts," "stripped skin" and all.

That is entertaining? Not in my book (or your magazine).

**STEVEN DHUEY**  
Milwaukee, Wisc.

I'd like to give my two cents worth about **EERIE** #76.

First, "The Moonweavers" was an exceptionally well-done story, although it's usually bad policy to have a suspense story in which a hero is a courageous adolescent... cliché a la Disney. But, surprisingly, "Moonweavers" proved a terrific exception to the rule.

The plot twists were unique and welcome indeed. If **Budd Lewis** can write other **Moonweaver** tales as well or better than the first, let him! The series would be a welcome change of pace!

**Lewis** is also to be congratulated for introducing us to **Wolfer O'Connell**. **Wolfer's** story was truly a letter from home for us **EERIE** fans who miss the one-time terror yarns of **EERIE's** past... those arsenic-coated delights replete with monster and mayhem centers!

"Oogie and the Scroungers," the latest installment of "How to Become a Cartoon Hero or God in Two Easy Lessons" was a good tale abounding in wry satire, but watch it... you may have given the **IRS** some ideas... and that'll mean no one on earth is safe!

"Tales of Peter Hypnos" is definitely out of place in a magazine devoted to sci-fi and horror fantasy, even though "The Silver Key" was enhanced by **Jose Bea's** strange artwork and bits of dry humor.

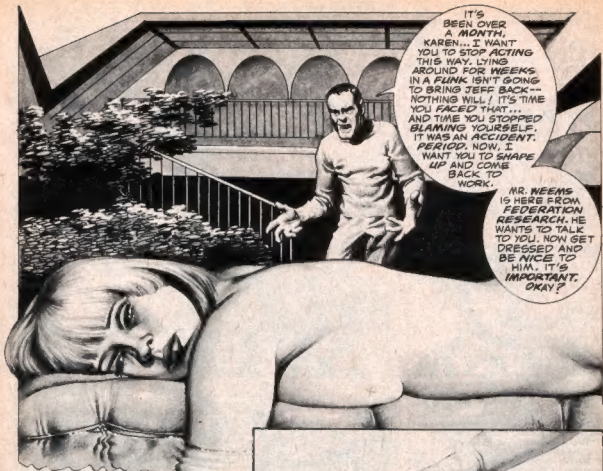
Kudos to **Jim Starlin** for "Beware Darkon, the Mystic."

The story was suspenseful, a thriller worthy of **Alfred Hitchcock**, and yet what was it? Science fiction? Parapsychological fantasy? Crime thriller? It was all of them! The contract was out on an omnipotent sorcerer from a far planet—quite a plot!

**THOMAS TOBIE**  
Jefferson, Ohio

**DEAR COUSIN**  
**EERIE**

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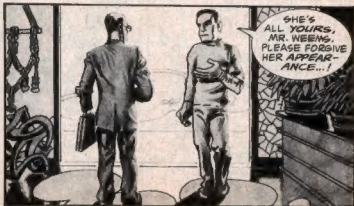
IT'S BEEN OVER A MONTH, KAREN... I WANT YOU TO STOP ACTING THIS WAY. LYING AROUND FOR WEEKS IN A FLUNK ISN'T GOING TO BRING JEFF BACK-- NOTHING WILL! IT'S TIME YOU FACED THAT... AND TIME YOU STOPPED BLAMING YOURSELF. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. PERIOD. NOW, I WANT YOU TO SHAPE UP AND COME BACK TO WORK.

MR. WEEMS IS HERE FROM FEDERATION RESEARCH. HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU. NOW GET DRESSED AND BE NICE TO HIM. IT'S IMPORTANT. OKAY?

**TIME  
AND  
TIME  
AGAIN**



KAREN? ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? I'M SENDING HIM IN, WHETHER YOU'RE DRESSED OR NOT!



SHE'S ALL YOURS, MR. WEEMS. PLEASE FORGIVE HER APPEARANCE...!





...SO YOU SEE, MRS. HUDSON, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE RETRIEVE THE PISTOL JEFF LYENDECKER DROPPED IN THE MARSH WHEN HE WENT BACK TO RESCUE YOU. IF WE ALLOW IT TO REMAIN IN THE CRETACEOUS AGE, IT MIGHT SET OFF AN ENTIRE CHAIN OF UNPLEASANT EVENTS...



FOR INSTANCE: WHAT IF SOME WANDERING NEANDERTHAL SHOULD ONE DAY COME ACROSS THE WEAPON? GRANTED, BY THEN IT WILL HAVE CORRODED BEYOND FUNCTIONING; HOWEVER, THE BASIC PRINCIPLE BEHIND ITS DESIGN MIGHT REGISTER IN HIS PRIMITIVE BRAIN. IF FIREARMS WERE DISCOVERED CENTURIES BEFORE THEIR TIME IT COULD DISRUPT HISTORY ALARMINGLY!-- THE GERMANS MAY HAVE WON WWII!

THERE ARE OTHER TELEPATHISTS WE COULD SEND, BUT NONE WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE REGION.

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU MEAN THE GUN REMAINS IN THE CRETACEOUS AGE? EVEN AFTER JEFF HAS STOPPED MENTAL PROJECTION?



YES... AN UNFORSEEN DEVELOPMENT. ONCE INANIMATE OBJECTS TRAVERSE THE TIME BARRIER, THEY BECOME PERMANENTLY SOLIDIFIED... NO LONGER MERELY A PART OF THE VOYAGER'S MIND... UNLESS THEY'RE RETRIEVED WITHIN AN HOUR.

...YES... ER... UH... THAT WAS THE PROPOSAL...

OKAY MR. WEEMS, YOU'VE GOT YOUR TELEPATHIST-- ON THESE CONDITIONS...

...AND I WANT A KEY TO THE LAB IN CASE I NEED TO DO ANY LATE-NIGHT HOMEWORK ON THE CRETACEOUS AGE. AGREED?



AND YOU WANT ME TO TIE BACK AND FETCH IT FOR YOU... BACK TO THE PLACE JEFF PULLED ME OUT OF THE RIVER?



I WANT FREE ACCESS TO ALL VIDEO TAPES OF THE FIRST TRIP, PLUS THE RIGHT TO ANY EQUIPMENT I DEEM NECESSARY.



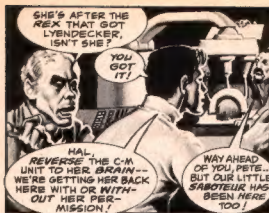
I... (GULP!)... THAT IS... WHAT-EVER YOU WISH... UH... MY DEAR...



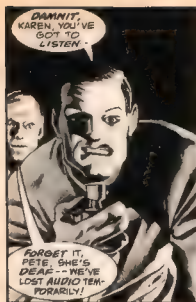




















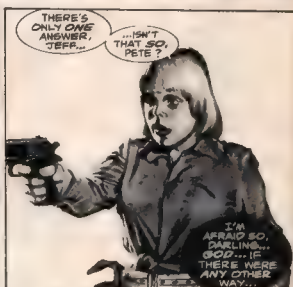
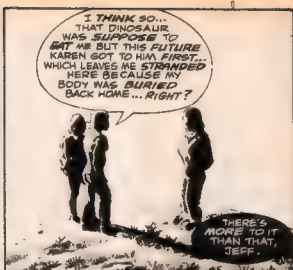
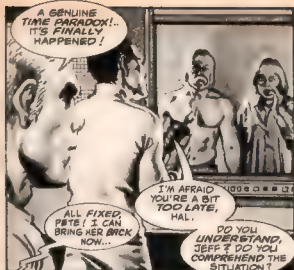
**WHOBAM!**



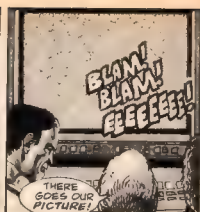
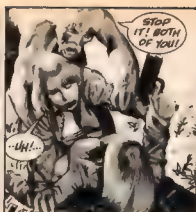
WE TRIED TO WARN YOU, KAREN... YOU MISCALCULATED WHEN YOU SABOTAGED THE TIME DIAL...

YOU DESTROYED THE TYRANNOSAURUS BEFORE IT KILLED JEFF.











# THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

## TARZAN'S TRAVAILS

**Y**ou gotta believe me, folks, but I was honestly planning to bring you good news for a change.

I was gonna tell you all about this brand new comic-book publishing house anchored by Edgar Rice Burroughs characters such as Tarzan and John Carter of Mars and Korak. I was gonna tell you about how this company was really committed to intelligently presenting ERB's creations, not just using them to shore up a sagging corporate image not worth buttressing. I was gonna tell you how this company had the foresight and good sense to hire Mark Evanier as managing editor. I was even planning to tell you about all the artwork by Russ Manning, Dan Spiegle, Doug Wildey, Alex Nino and Pat Boyette that this company had planned to publish.

Then the business of comic books got in the way and my best-laid plans went the way of so many sets of best-laid plans.

**A**s many of you may already know, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., the company which controls the fate of all of ERB's materials, recently decided National Periodical Publications should no longer continue to produce comic-book adaptations of the late author's characters. According to a reliable source in the company, ERB, Inc. was displeased with National's stories and artwork on Burroughs characters and disappointed that the company had not lived up to an apparently unwritten agreement to promote the lesser-known Pellucidar and John Carter features. ERB, Inc. subsequently chose not to renew NPP's contract when it expired earlier this year.

Led by ERB, Inc. president Robert Hodess, the company planned to start their own comic-book publishing company in the United States to write, draw, publish and disseminate the further adventures of Tarzan, Korak et al. The plan was ingenious, too. Since ERB, Inc.

was already producing material for sale to foreign publishers who hold the rights to Burroughs' characters, Hodess calculated these overseas sales would underwrite American editorial costs, thus making a normally tricky decision to form a comic-book publishing company somewhat less risky.

Hodess then proceeded to hire Evanier, a long-time comic-book fan, comic-book

Evanier-produced material as had been hoped. Although it seems unlikely that they were displeased with the quality of the work—they had been unimpressed with National's material, including Joe Kubert's Tarzan—they just weren't buying.

Nevertheless, Hodess pressed on and Evanier and cohorts continued to produce material, backlogging it for future use.



and television writer and generally upright gentleman. Evanier contracted the aforementioned artists, as well as writers such as Bill Rotstler, Don Glut and himself, to begin producing ERB stories. Although Evanier, a 24-year-old native Californian, had not been officially appointed managing editor of the ERB Comic-Book Division until April, production on the new material began at the beginning of 1976.

At the same time, Hodess also began making the necessary production decisions needed to start a new publishing venture. He reportedly mapped out an acceptable scenario with both World Color Press, the nation's largest comic-book printer, and PDC, a large magazine distribution company which also handles Warren comics. Although no contracts were signed, everything seemed to be in good order.

**T**hen the hassles came. The foreign publishers, who have the option to produce entirely new material for their market or purchase it from ERB, Inc., weren't as receptive to the

**A**bout this time, however, the corporate roof fell in, too. Marion Burroughs, chairman of ERB, Inc., chose this time to end her reign as absentee boss. While it is unclear why she stepped in when she did, it was quickly apparent that she was now interested in how her company was being run. One of her first decisions was to suspend production of all ERB material and at least temporarily shelf the new company project. As a result, as this is written in late July, Tarzan and the other ERB characters are not being produced, have no contract with any American publisher after National's November releases, and apparently will not anchor a new publishing company in the immediate future.

**A**s for the future of ERB material, it seems reasonable to assume that Tarzan and the other characters will eventually get back into print somehow. ERB, Inc. could turn to Marvel and license them. Marvel would probably be interested, since it produced sample Tarzan strips in 1972 when the contract went from Gold Key

to National. Or ERB, Inc. could license Gold Key again, resuming an association with Western Publishing which dates back to 1939 and Western's old Dell line. It could even renegotiate with National, since NPP president Sol Harrison has let it be known he would be amenable to publishing stories produced by ERB, Inc. rather than his own staff. On the long-shot list, Charlton might be interested, but ERB, Inc. has never quite forgotten that the Derby, Conn. company produced several unauthorized Tarzan adaptations in the 1960s.

If I were a Burroughs fan, I wouldn't be terribly worried, though. Tarzan and, to a lesser extent, Korak and the other characters, are too valuable in terms of corporate prestige, potential comic-book sales and other dollar-oriented fringes to be out of the comic market for too long.

It's just that I had so wanted to be the bearer of glad tidings just this once.

## DIRTY LAUNDRY

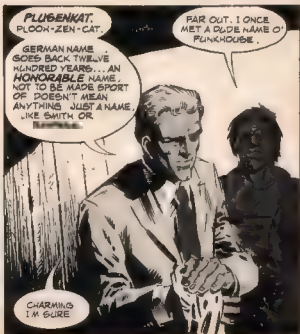
**F**or those of you who might have been somewhat nonplussed by my essay on comic book writers two issues back, let me hasten to shift the blame to the friendly folks at Warren. It was a relatively lucid piece of work when it left my typewriter, but by the time it got through Warren Publications' production department, several key paragraphs disappeared because of space limitations. Normally, I personally trim the column, but this one got lost in the shuffle somehow.

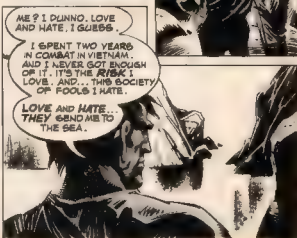
None of this explanation makes the column more readable, but I thought you should know—just in case you were considering me for a \$10,000 free-lance assignment or something.

Joe Brancatelli is an editor and writer for Fairchild Publications, the nation's largest chain of business publications. He actively solicits your comments on the comic-book world.



# The PEA-GREEN BOAT







**TWO MEN, A MILLION MILES APART... BROUGHT TOGETHER BY DIFFERENT NEEDS... TO FIND FULFILLMENT IN A FORTY-SEVEN FOOT SAILINGSHIP. AN OBJECT TO DEFTY NATURE, DARE THE GOOD AND TO BRAVE THE WONDERS... THE DANGERS OF THE EARTH ITSELF.**

ALMOST THROUGH CHIPPING PAINT ON THE PORT BOW, PUBBYCAT?

THAT I **AM** SKIPPER! SHE'LL BE READY FOR A COAT OF PRIMER PAINT SOON!

WELL, PUBBYCAT, FOR EIGHT WEEKS NOW WE WORKED EVERY SPARE MINUTE, **RIGGED** HER SAILS... **SCRAPPED** EVERY INCH OF HER HULL AND **FITTED** HER FROM STEM TO STERN.

NOW, WE **PAINT** HER!

WITH **THAT** PAINT??? GOOD GOD, AL! IT'S **BLICKUS GREEN**! WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT **SICKLY GREEN**?

ISN'T IT **OBVIOUS** MATE? TWO JOKERS ABOUT TO SAIL OFF TO THE FOUR WINDS! AND **WHO** ARE WE?

WHO... WHO **ARE** WE?

YOU'RE **PLUSENKAT**, I'M **ALBERT!** THE **AL** AND THE **PUBBYCAT!**

AND **THIS** IS THE **BEAUTIFUL** **PEA-GREEN** **BOAT!**

SIGH WHAT **E.E.E?**

LATER

PUBBYCAT, OL' SHIPMATE! HOW WAS THE BUSINESS TRIP?

LOOK HERE... I'VE BEEN OVERHAULING THE SUBSTRUCTURE ON THE DECK AND HOUSING THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

HELLO, OWL!

SAY? YOU'RE LINING WITH DECK WITH SHEETS OF **METAL!** WHAT THE HELL FOR?

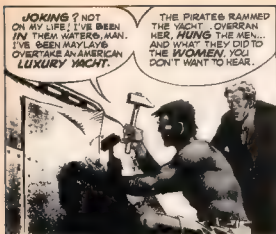
WELL, MATEY, **THIS** IS ABOUT THE ONLY **CIVILIZED** CORNER OF THE WORLD.

PUBBYCAT, IN THEM WATERS BE PIRATES, THIEVES, MURDERERS AND BRIGANDES, FROM SINGAPORE TO THE BARBARY COAST, WHO'D **EAT** YOUR THROAT FOR YOUR CUFF LINKS.

ONLY **THESE** PIRATES CARRY MACHINE GUNS AND CANNONS. WE'D BE SITTING **DUCKS** OUT THERE, WITHOUT PROTECTION.

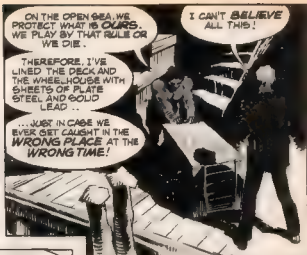
I'VE TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST ANY **HOSTILE** POSSIBILITY.

YOU'RE **JOKING** OF COURSE.



JOKING? NOT ON MY LIFE! I'VE BEEN IN THEM WATERS, MAN. I'VE SEEN MAYLAYS OVERTAKE AN AMERICAN LUXURY YACHT.

THE PIRATES RAMMED THE YACHT. OVERRAN HER, HUNG THE MEN... AND WHAT THEY DID TO THE WOMEN, YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR.



ON THE OPEN SEA, WE PROTECT WHAT IS OURS. WE PLAY BY THAT RULE OR WE DIE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THIS!

THEREFORE, I'VE LINED THE DECK AND THE WHEELHOUSE WITH SHEETS OF PLATE STEEL AND GOLD LEAD...

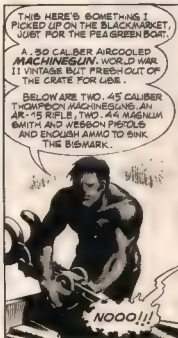
...JUST IN CASE WE EVER GET CAUGHT IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME!



SONNY BOY, BELIEVE IT! WITH ANY LUCK YOU MAY JUST NEVER HAVE TO SEE ANOTHER CIVILIZED HUMAN BEING AGAIN.

BUT YOU'LL BE SEEING UNCIVILIZED FACES... FOR SURE! AND THOSE FACES WILL BE SEEING YOU, TOO!

EVERYWHERE WE GO, WE'LL BE PLAYING WITH DYNAMITE. AND IF WE MAKE THE WRONG MOVE, WE'LL GET GOT.

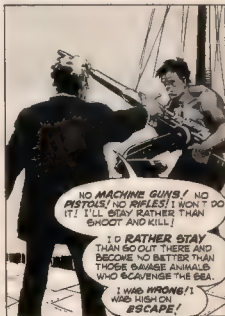


THIS HERE'S SOMETHING I PICKED UP ON THE BLACK MARKET, JUST FOR THE PEA GREEN BOAT.

A .30 CALIBER AIRCOOLED MACHINEGUN. WORLD WAR II VINTAGE BUT FRESH OUT OF THE CRATE FOR USE.

BELOW ARE TWO .45 CALIBER THOMPSON MACHINEGUNS, AN AR-15 RIFLE, TWO .44 MAGNUM SMITH AND WESSON PISTOLS AND ENOUGH AMMO TO SINK THE BISMARCK.

NOOO!!!



NO MACHINE GUNS! NO PISTOLS! NO RIFLES! I WON'T DO IT! I'LL STAY RATHER THAN SHOOT AND KILL!

I'D RATHER STAY THAN GO OUT THERE AND BECOME NO BETTER THAN THOSE SAVAGE ANIMALS WHO SCAVENGE THE SEA.

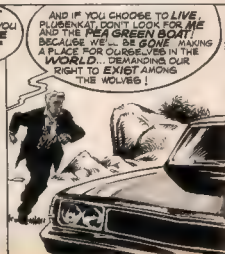
I WAS WRONG! I WAS HIGH ON ESCAPE!



JUST HOW GODDAMN LONG DO YOU THINK YOUR SICK SOCIETY'S GOT? WAKE UP, DAMN IT! WAKE UP AND LOOK AROUND YOU! IT'S DYING!

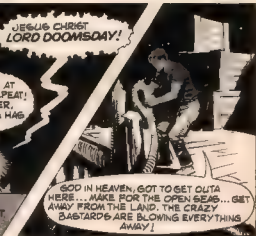
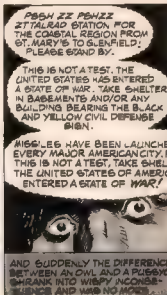
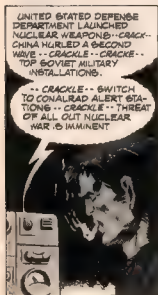
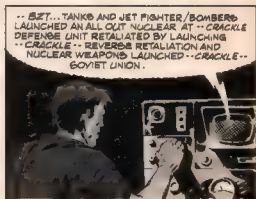
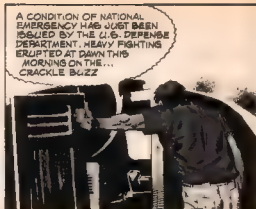
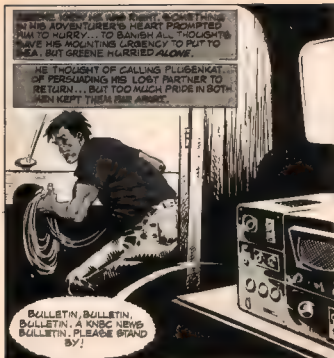
AND WHEN IT GAGGLES ITS FINAL GAGG... WHERE WILL YOU GO THEN!??

WILL YOU FIGHT BACK? OR WILL YOU LIE DOWN AND DIE WITH THE REST OF THEM?



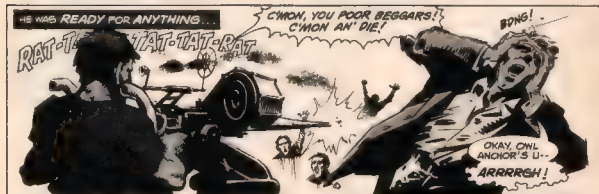
AND IF YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE, PLUBENKAT, DON'T LOOK FOR ME AND THE PEA GREEN BOAT! BECAUSE WE'LL BE GONE MAKING A PLACE FOR OURSELVES IN THE WORLD... DEMANDING OUR RIGHT TO EXIST AMONG THE WOLVES!











AND SUDDENLY HE HAD TIME TO WONDER IF THE SCORCHED, RADIOACTIVE PRIZE WAS WORTH ALL THAT EFFORT.



THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU, PUGGYCAT. KEEP USING UP YOUR NINE LIVES THAT WAY AND I'LL HAVE TO FIND ME A NEW PARTNER.

I... UH... HAD TO KEEP THE OTHERS FROM COMING ABOARD... YOU KNOW?

I-I UNDERSTAND. UH... HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?



TEN DAYS. THE WAR IS OVER. RADIATION'S OVER TOO. WE WERE SAVED BY THE STEEL AND LEAD LINING IN THE HULL.

THERE'S NOTHING MUCH LEFT OF THE WORLD WE WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE, PUGGYCAT I DOUBT THERE'S MUCH OF ANYTHING LEFT...

...EXCEPT ENOUGH FOOD FOR A TWO WEEK SHAKE DOWN CRUISE.



MATE, INSTEAD OF ESCAPING FROM SOCIETY, WE'VE GOT TO TRY AND FIND IT SOMEWHERE.

IT'S A BIG WORLD, EVEN IF IT'S A DESTROYED ONE. WHAT EVER WE FIND, WE'LL DEAL WITH WHATEVER WAY WE CAN.

OUT THERE... THERE BE PIRATES... AND WORSE NOW. YOU READY TO TRY, PUGGYCAT?



LET'S GO FIND THE WORLD, OWL.



"AND THEY SAILED AWAY FOR A YEAR AND A DAY... ON THE BEAUTIFUL PEA GREEN BOAT."



END



# DARKLON the MYSTIC...

IS HIS NAME.  
BEFORE HIM  
LOCATES THE CITY  
OF HIS BIRTH...  
NEBULOR.

NEBULOR, THE FABLED  
CAPITOL OF NEBULARIA,  
THE HOME OF STAR-  
CONQUERING WIZARDS  
AND WARRIORS.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT  
HAS BEEN MANY YEARS  
SINCE THIS MYSTIC HAS  
BEHELD HIS WONDEROUS  
HOME, THE SIGHT OF IT RE-  
KINDLES PAINFUL MEMORIES.

FOR THEY ARE  
RECOLLECTIONS  
OF PRIDE, BATTLE,  
PASSION,  
TRAGEDY, AND...

# THE PRICE



YET RECENT  
EVENTS HAVE  
FORCED ME  
TO RETURN

OF LATE I  
HAVE BEEN  
PLAGUED BY  
ASSASSINING.



ASSASSINING  
ALLEGEDLY  
HIRED BY  
KAMIR  
DARKHOLD,  
MY FATHER..



CAN THE YEARS HAVE CHANGED HIM  
THAT HE'D BE CAPABLE OF SUCH  
ACTIONS?

I PRAY  
NOT.



HE WAS THE KAVAR OF NEBULARIA, HIS  
WAS THE HAND THAT RULED THE  
THOUSAND PLANETS OF THE REALM. HE  
WAS THE ULTIMATE PRODUCT OF A DOZEN  
CENTURIES' EXPERIENCE IN TYRANNY  
AND WARFARE.

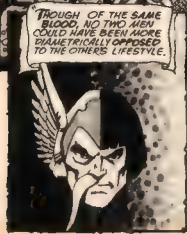
DARKLON WAS THE SON  
OF WHICH THE KAVAR  
WAS ASHAMED.



THOUGH OF THE SAME  
BLOOD, NO TWO MEN  
COULD HAVE BEEN MORE  
DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED  
TO THE OTHERS' LIFESTYLE.

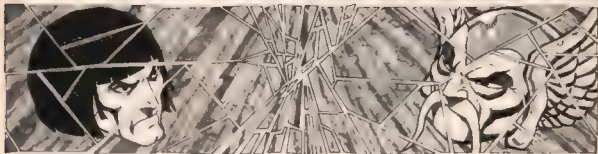


AS A WARRIOR BORN, DARKHOLD  
WAS CRUSHED WHEN HIS  
OFFSPRING FOUND MORE JOY IN  
BOOKS, MYSTICISM, WOMEN  
AND THE GENTLER PATHS  
OF LIFE, THAN IN THE  
MANLY ART OF WAR.





THESE DIFFERENCES WERE THE SEEDS OF ALIENATION WHICH MATURED INTO MISTRUST AND ULTIMATELY GREW TO BE HATRED. EVENTUALLY, SILENT, CONTEMPTUOUS SCOWLS WERE THE ONLY COMMUNICATION TO PASS BETWEEN FATHER AND SON.



THE ONLY THING THAT KEPT THE FATHER FROM EXILING HIS SON WAS A STRONG SENSE OF TRADITION AND FAMILY LINE.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN TIME...

SO IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE WHEN TARUS BLACKLORE CAME TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RULING NEBULARIA.

BLACKLORE PROVED TO HAVE A KEEN AND ARROGANT MIND. JUST THE TYPE DARKHOLD FELT WAS NEEDED TO HELP RULE THE REALM.

FOR DARKHOLD KNEW NOTHING OF THE PLOTS AND INTRIGUES THAT TOOK PLACE AT NIGHT.

BLACKLORE TOOK GREAT CARE THAT THE KING NEVER SAW THE DARKER SIDE OF HIS NATURE.

SO BECAUSE THEY DID, PRINCE DARKLON'S SLEEP WAS SHATTERED ONE NIGHT BY THE DEADLY SOUND OF LASERS FIRING, SWORDS CLASHING AND MEN DYING.

NEBULARIA'S ADMIRAL NEVER LEARNED OF TARUS' CONVICTION THAT THE REALM WOULD FALL ONCE THE KAVAR'S WEAK SON, DARKLON, TOOK THE THRONE.

TO AVOID THAT HAPPENING, BLACKLORE ADVOCATED A NEW REGIME IMMEDIATELY.

DARKHOLD NEVER HEARD OF THIS BUT MANY DID AND MANY OF THOSE BELIEVED.

THE FATHER FOUND A SUBSTITUTE SON.


A SON WHO WOULD SHARE THE JOY'S DARKHOLD FOUND IN HUNTING, BATTLE, AND A TROJAN LIFESTYLE.

THE KAVAR WAS WELL PLEASED WITH HIS NEW SON.

IN TURN, ONLY A PROMISE MADE A DYING MOTHER KEPT THE SON FROM ABANDONING NEBULARIA.

HE KNEW IN AN INSTANT WHAT IT MEANT.

HE SPRANG FROM HIS BED AND RACED TO THE GREAT HALL...



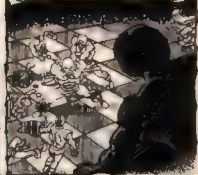
"WHERE HE FOUND HIS FATHER  
AND MONARCH LOCKED IN LONE  
COMBAT WITH A SCORE OF REBELS.

"DARKHOLD WAS AWESOME  
TO BEHOLD. A DOZEN  
CORPSES LAY AT HIS FEET.  
BLOOD FLOURED FROM HALF  
AS MANY WOUNDS, YET  
STILL HE FOUGHT ON."



"UNTIL AN  
UNEXPECTED  
BLOW LAID  
HIM LOW.

"THEY CHAINED THAT PROUD  
GIANT AND BEGAN TO DRAG  
HIM TO THE CASTLE DUNGEON  
WHEN FATE DECIDED THAT  
DARKHOLD SHOULD GLANCE UP  
AT THE BALCONY WHERE HIS  
SON STOOD, EYES LOCKED.



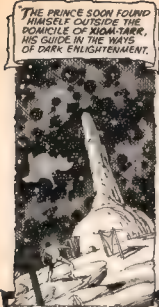
"DARKLON  
THEN  
TURNED AND  
DID THE ONLY  
THING HE  
KNEW HIM-  
SELF CAPABLE  
OF DOING

"STORMY WERE  
THE KAYE'S  
THOUGHTS  
THAT NIGHT.




"HE FLED  
FROM THE  
CASTLE  
AND CITY






THE PRINCE SOON FOUND HIMSELF OUTSIDE THE DOMICILE OF XIOM-TARR, HIS GUIDE IN THE WAYS OF DARK ENLIGHTENMENT.




SAY NOTHING, I ALREADY KNOW YOU CAME TO ME FOR THE MIGHT TO SHATTER YOUR FATHER'S ENEMIES.



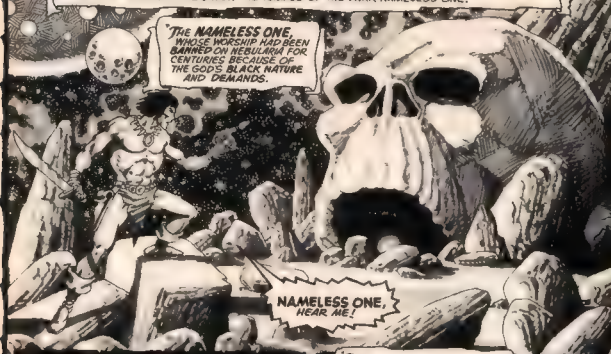
SORROWFULLY, I MUST TELL YOU I CANNOT GRANT YOU SUCH POWER.

I KNOW OF ONLY ONE BEING WHO CAN



MAY THE STARS PROTECT YOU... THE DARK NAMELESS ONE ALONE CAN AID YOU NOW.

SO IT PASSED THAT TWO NIGHTS LATER DARKLON STOOD BEFORE THE ENTRANCE OF THE DREAD GYVERN OF THE SCREAMING SKULL, THE TEMPLE OF THE DARK NAMELESS ONE.




THE NAMELESS ONE, WHOSE WORSHIP HAD BEEN BANNED ON NEBULARIA FOR CENTURIES BECAUSE OF THE GOD'S BLACK NATURE AND DEMANDS.

NAMELESS ONE, HEAR ME!



DARKLON OF NEBULARIA WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU.

WILL YOU GRANT ME AN AUDIENCE?



THE NAMELESS ONE'S REPLY WAS SWIFT AND...



IN THE FORM  
OF A TRIO OF  
CRIMSON-EYED  
DEMONS THIRST-  
ING FOR THE  
PRINCE'S BLOOD.

DARKLON HAD  
CURSED THROUGH  
SUFFERING THROUGH  
THE MARTIAL ARTS  
INSTRUCTIONS HIS  
FATHER FORCED UPON  
HIM AS A YOUTH.

NOW HE BLESSED  
THEM AND PROVED  
THOSE LESSONS NOT  
WASTED.

THE BATTLE WAS  
SHORT.

SECONDS AFTER IT  
STARTED, DARKLON  
PEERED DOWN UPON  
THE TRAIL OF LIFE-  
LESS DEMONS HE  
HAD CREATED.

THE ABSENCE  
OF NEW  
ASSAILANTS HE  
TOOK TO BE AN  
INDICATION  
THAT HIS  
AUDIENCE  
HAD BEEN  
GRANTED.

SO HE ENTERED THE VILE  
DOMAIN OF THE DARK  
NAMELESS ONE.



THE PRINCE  
FOLLOWED A  
NARROW STAIR-  
CASE THAT  
SEEMED TO  
DESCEND INTO  
THE VERY BOWELS  
OF THE EARTH.

...EVENTUALLY FOUND  
HIMSELF IN A VAST  
THRONE ROOM FACING  
THE NAMELESS ONE.

"ONE LOOK AT  
THIS DARK  
DEITY CONFIRMED  
AS TRUTH ALL THE  
NIGHTMARISH  
TALES DARKLON  
HAD HEARD OF  
THIS DEMON KING,  
BUT HAD WRITTEN  
OFF AS OLD  
WIVES' TALES.

TO SEE THE  
NAMELESS ONE  
WAS TO KNOW  
HIM CAPABLE OF  
ANYTHING.

SPEAK,  
PRINCE  
DARKLON OF  
NEBULARA!

WHAT BRINGS  
THE DESCENDANT  
OF MY OLD ENEMY,  
KAVAR DARKHOLD,  
TO MY COURT?

AS YOU  
WELL KNOW,  
I CRAVE  
A BOON  
OF YOU!

I SEEK THE  
POWER  
TO SMITE  
DOWN MY  
ENEMIES!

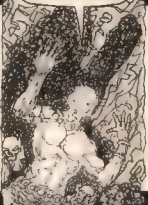
POWER... I HAD HOPED FOR SOMETHING MORE ORIGINAL FROM A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.



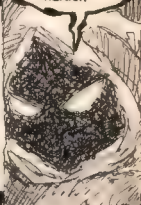
BUT TELL ME, AFTER YOU'VE GAINED YOUR VENGEANCE, DO YOU INTEND TO USE THIS MIGHT FOR GOOD OR EVIL?



AS STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, CONSIDERING WHERE I SEEK IT, I PLAN TO USE MY SKILLS FOR GOOD.



FINE. I'VE FOUND GOOD INTENTIONS TO BE A GREATER DESTRUCTIVE FORCE THAN THE BLACKEST HEART.



YOU SEE, DESTRUCTION IS WHAT I RELISH MOST, SO I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH...



FOR A PRICE.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO PAY THE COST OF POWER?



AID ME AND ALL THAT IS MINE TO GIVE IS YOURS.



SO BE IT.

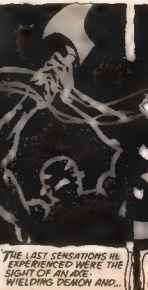
PREPARE THE INITIATE.



BLACK TALONS RIPPED AT AND SEIZED THE YOUNG PRINCE AND PULLED HIM INTO THE DARKNESS.




HE FOUND HIMSELF FORCED UPON A CRACKED AND BLOOD-STAINED BLOCK, OR ALTAR.



THE LAST SENSATIONS HE EXPERIENCED WERE THE SIGHT OF AN AXE-WIELDING DEMON AND...

THE SOUND OF HIS OWN PANIC.






THE INITIATE  
HAS BEEN FREED  
OF THE BURDENS  
OF LIFE.

PREPARE  
FOR HIS  
BAPTISM  
INTO THE  
ORDER!

SO IT ENDED, HIS FATHER  
IMPRISONED, A USURPER SITTING  
ON HIS THRONE, HIMSELF MURDERED  
AND HIS SOUL IN THE HANDS OF  
A DEPRAVED GOD.

FROM THESE  
ASHES A  
PHOENIX  
WOULD RISE.



I, DARKLON THE MYSTIC,  
WOULD BE THAT  
LEGENDARY BIRD.

YES, I WOULD  
RISE WITH POWER  
AS MY LIFE, BUT  
DAMNATION  
AS MY FATE.

END

*thus ends Chapter One*

"GRECIAN VINO" IS AN INCENSE. IT'S VERY VOGUE RIGHT NOW, VERY IN THE MAMMAMO CLUB USES IT EXCLUSIVELY AND IN SUCH COPIOUS AMOUNTS THAT ENCOUNTERING IT ANYWHERE ELSE IMMEDIATELY CONJURES UP IMAGES OF THE PLACE AND THE CLIENTELE WHO HAUNT IT. SMART ADVERTISING.

BUT THEN, SAID, THE OWNER IS LIKE THAT; SMART AND CHARMING AND HANDSOME. WHICH IS WHY THE THE VANGUARD IS SUCH A SUCCESS. SKIP KNOWS WHAT A GUY NEEDS AND JUST WHAT KIND OF ATMOSPHERE EMBELLISHES THOSE NEEDS.

HE EVEN MOVES GRACEFULLY AMONG THE DIMLY LIT TABLES AND SOFT-VOICED COUPLES, CHATTING INTIMATELY, MAKING SURE EVERYONE IS SATISFIED AND COMFORTABLE THERE. THAT'S HIM NOW...

WELL, WELL! THE GOOD FAIRY SMILES UPON US; AND JUST WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF, YOUNG MAN? FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING OVER AT THE COMPETITION, RICK?

HI, SKIP NO, JUST BEEN WORKING HARD I GUESS. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? I LIKE YOUR HAIR.

# THIRD PERSON SINGULAR

WHAT, THIS DISASTER? PLEASE! DON'T HUMOR THE HUMORLESS! I'D LIKE TO GET MY NAIL INTO THE BEAST THAT CREATED THIS ABORTION! I ASKED FOR CHAMPAGNE PINK!

WELL, ENOUGH OF ME. WHAT'S MY FAVORITE SCORPIO BEEN UP TO LATELY... M-M-M?

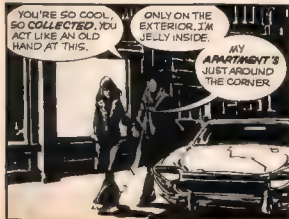
IF YOU MUST KNOW--AND YOU ALWAYS MUST-- I MET A BOY AT LOU SHOMBURG'S PARTY LAST WEEK. NAME'S LEE WHITTIER. HE'S JOINING ME HERE.

WHITTIER, WHITTIER... SOUNDS LIKE A JUNIOR COLLEGE IN WEST VIRGINIA. SHOULD I BE JEALOUS?

NOW, SKIPPER... YOU PROMISED

OH, I KNOW BUT I'M JUST WRETCHED AT THIS LET'S-JUST-BE-GOOD-FRIENDS BUSINESS. I KEEP SEEING BALMY NIGHTS IN CORAL KEY AND THAT GODDAM BEAUTIFUL TAN YOU HAD. 'MEMBER?









THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME, ISN'T IT? I CAN ALWAYS TELL... I HOPE YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED...

JUST HURRY, WILL YOU?



WELL?

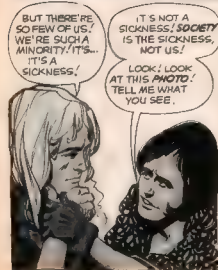


MY GOD!  
MY GOD!  
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL...

OH, JESUS!  
(SOB-SOB)  
JESUS... (SOB)

RICK, DON'T PLEASE!

RICK LOOK AT ME! LOOK! DON'T ACT LIKE THIS! BEING *HETERO* ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF! YOU JUST HAVE TO ADMIT IT TO YOURSELF!



BUT THERE'RE SO FEW OF US! WE'RE SUCH A MINORITY! IT'S... IT'S A SICKNESS!

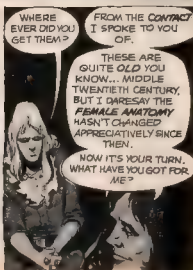
IT'S NOT A SICKNESS! SOCIETY IS THE SICKNESS, NOT US!

LOOK! LOOK AT THIS PHOTO! TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.



I... I SEE BEAUTY... BEAUTY AND GRACE AND WONDER... I... I WANT TO TOUCH HER... TO BE WITH HER, TO TALK TO HER...

NOW TELL ME... IS THERE SICKNESS IN THAT?

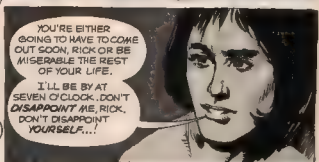
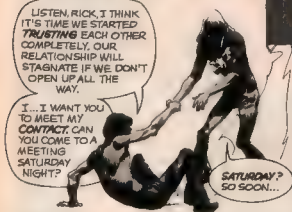
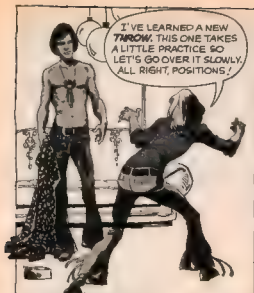


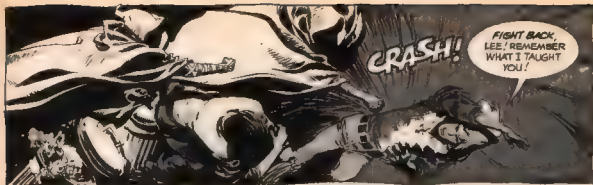
WHERE EVER DID YOU GET THEM?

FROM THE CONTACT I SPOKE TO YOU OF.

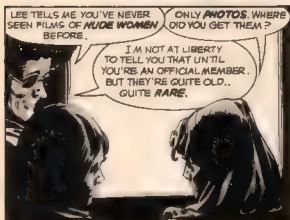
THESE ARE QUITE OLD YOU KNOW... MIDDLE TWENTIETH CENTURY, BUT I DARESAY THE *FEMALE ANATOMY* HASN'T CHANGED APPRECIATIVELY SINCE THEN.

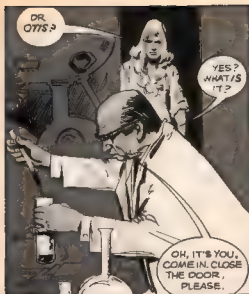
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME?







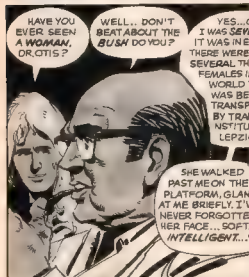




DR. OTIS?

YES?  
WHAT'S IT?

OH, IT'S YOU.  
COME IN, CLOSE  
THE DOOR,  
PLEASE.

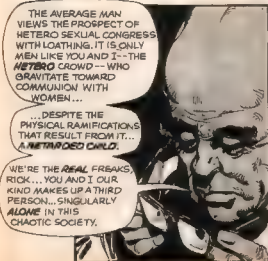


HAVE YOU  
EVER SEEN  
A WOMAN,  
DR. OTIS?

WELL... DON'T  
BEAT ABOUT THE  
BUSH DO YOU?

YES... ONCE.  
I WAS SEVENTEEN.  
IT WAS IN EUROPE.  
THERE WERE STILL  
SEVERAL THOUSAND  
FEMALES IN THE  
WORLD THEN. SHE  
WAS BEING  
TRANSPORTED  
BY TRAIN TO AN  
INSTITUTION IN  
LEIPZIG.

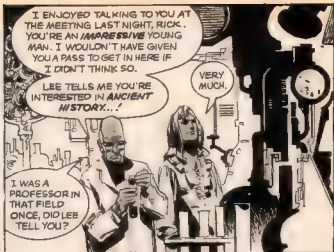
SHE WALKED  
PAST ME ON THE  
PLATFORM, GLANCED  
AT ME BRIEFLY. I'VE  
NEVER FORGOTTEN  
HER FACE... SOFT...  
INTELLIGENT...



THE AVERAGE MAN  
VIEWS THE PROSPECT OF  
HETERO SEXUAL CONGRESS  
WITH LOATHING. IT IS ONLY  
MEN LIKE YOU AND I--THE  
**HETERO CROWD**--WHO  
GRAVITATE TOWARD  
COMMUNION WITH  
WOMEN...

... DESPITE THE  
PHYSICAL RAMIFICATIONS  
THAT RESULT FROM IT...  
A **RETARDED CHILD**.

WE'RE THE **REAL FREAKS**,  
RICK... YOU AND I OUR  
KIND MAKES UP A THIRD  
PERSON... SINGULARLY  
**ALONE** IN THIS  
CHAOTIC SOCIETY.

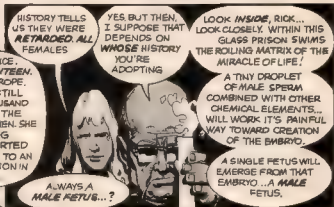


I ENJOYED TALKING TO YOU AT  
THE MEETING LAST NIGHT, RICK.  
YOU'RE AN **IMPRESSIVE** YOUNG  
MAN. I WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN  
YOU A PASS TO GET IN HERE IF  
I DIDN'T THINK SO.

LEE TELLS ME YOU'RE  
INTERESTED IN **ANCIENT  
HISTORY**...

VERY  
MUCH.

I WAS A  
PROFESSOR IN  
THAT FIELD  
ONCE, DID LEE  
TELL YOU?



HISTORY TELLS  
US THEY WERE  
**RETARDED, ALL  
FEMALES**

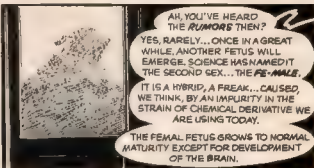
YES, BUT THEN,  
I SUPPOSE THAT  
DEPENDS ON  
**WHOSE HISTORY**  
YOU'RE  
ADOPTING

LOOK INSIDE, RICK...  
LOOK CLOSELY. WITHIN THIS  
GLASS PRISON SWIMS  
THE **ROLLING MATRIX** OF THE  
MIRACLE OF LIFE!

A TINY DROPLET  
OF MALE SPERM  
COMBINED WITH OTHER  
CHEMICAL ELEMENTS...  
WILL WORK ITS PAINFUL  
WAY TOWARD CREATION  
OF THE EMBRYO.

A SINGLE FETUS WILL  
EMERGE FROM THAT  
EMBRYO... A **MALE**  
FETUS.

ALWAYS A  
**MALE FETUS**...

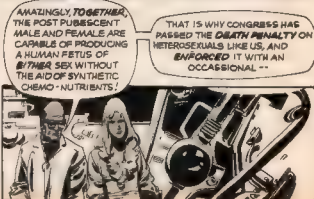


AH, YOU'VE HEARD  
THE **RUMORS** THEN?

YES, RARELY... ONCE IN A GREAT  
WHILE, ANOTHER FETUS WILL  
EMERGE. SCIENCE HAS NAMED IT  
THE **SECOND SEX... THE FE-MALE.**

IT IS A HYBRID, A FREAK... CAUSED,  
WE THINK, BY AN IMPURITY IN THE  
STRAIN OF CHEMICAL DERIVATIVE WE  
ARE USING TODAY.

THE FEMAL FETUS GROWS TO NORMAL  
MATURITY EXCEPT FOR DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE BRAIN.



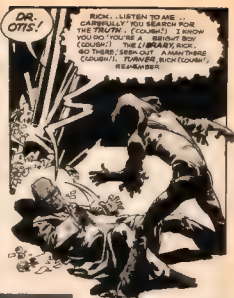
AMAZINGLY, **TOGETHER**,  
THE POST PUBESCENT  
MALE AND FEMALE ARE  
CAPABLE OF PRODUCING  
A HUMAN FETUS OF  
**EITHER SEX** WITHOUT  
THE AID OF SYNTHETIC  
CHEMO-NUTRIENTS!

THAT IS WHY CONGRESS HAS  
PASSED THE **DEATH PENALTY** ON  
HETEROSEXUALS LIKE US, AND  
**ENFORCED** IT WITH AN  
OCCASIONAL --









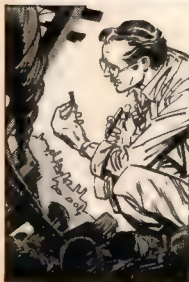
# SAM'S SON AND DELILAH!

LIEUTENANT WIGGINS WAS NIFFED. HIS FEET HURT FROM WALKING OVER ACRES OF RUBBLE. HIS BACK WAS WET FROM SWEATING UNDER AN UNSEASONABLY HOT OCTOBER SUN. HIS EARS ACHED FROM THE INCES-SANT ROAR OF THE CONVOY OF EARTH-MOVING MACHINES AROUND HIM AND HIS EYES BURNED... AND HIS HEAD THROBBED ...AND HE HAD NO IDEA IN HELL WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR.

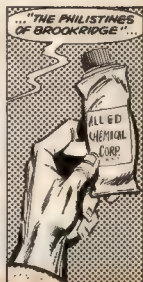
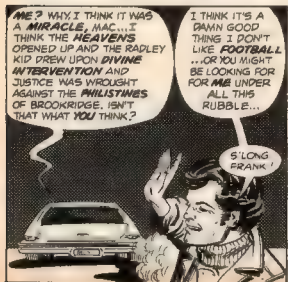
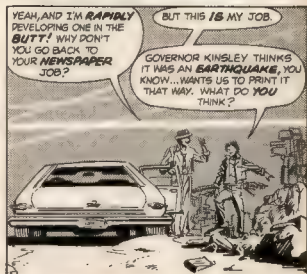
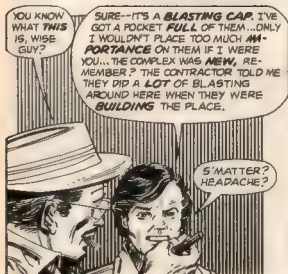
LT. WIGGINS?...  
SIR, WE'VE FOUND THE  
RAPLEY BOY, THEY'RE  
PULLING HIM OUT  
NOW...

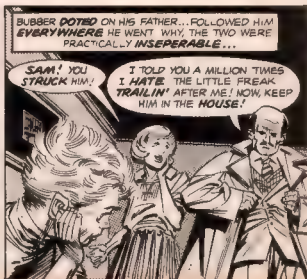
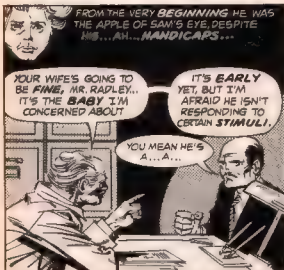
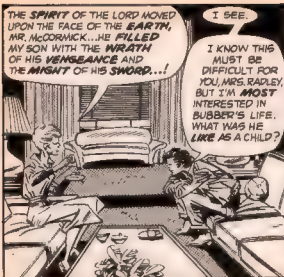
LT. WIGGINS?

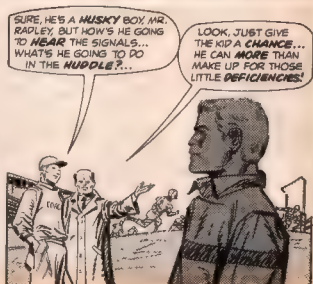
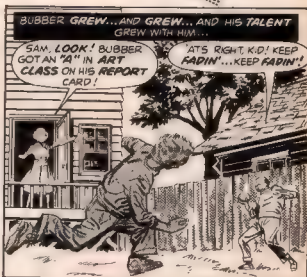
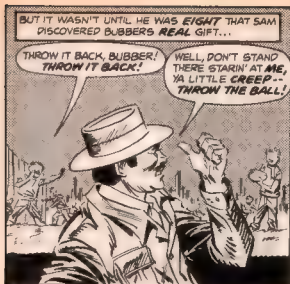
I HEARD YOU,  
BRADSHAW I'LL  
BE THERE IN  
A MINUTE



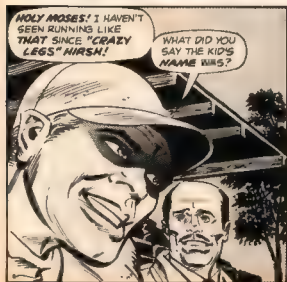
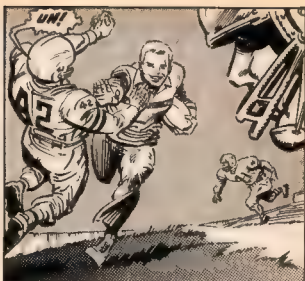


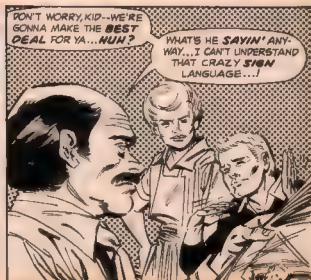


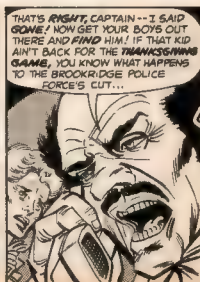
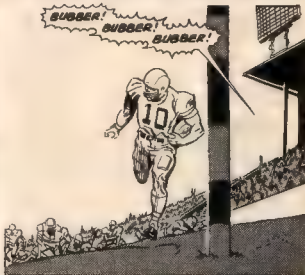
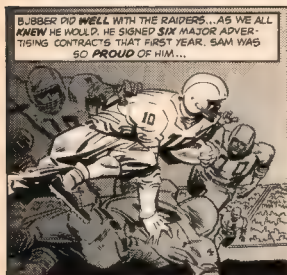
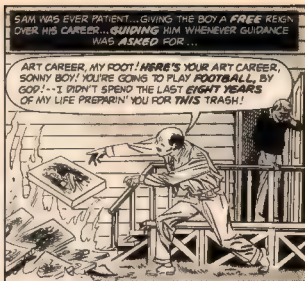






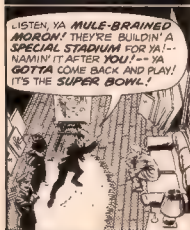








IN NO TIME AT ALL, THEY LOCATED BUBBER... HE WAS LIVING IN NEW YORK IN THE VILLAGE, DOING WHAT HE LOVED TO DO...



LISTEN, YA MULE-BRAINED MORON! THEY'RE BUILDIN' A SPECIAL STADIUM FOR YA!-- NAMIN' IT AFTER YOU!-- YA GOTTA COME BACK AND PLAY! IT'S THE SUPER BOWL!

LOOK, SAM, WE CAN'T FORCE THE BOY... YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY...

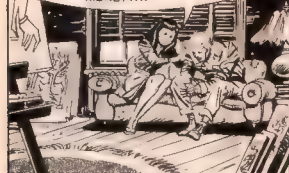


ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS TALK HIM INTO PLAYING IN NEXT MONTH'S GAME AND IT'S TEN THOUSAND CLEAR FOR YA. BUBBER AIN'T NEVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND BEFORE... IT SHOULD BE A CINCH FOR YA...



BUBBER HADN'T REALLY FORSAKEN FOOTBALL... HE WAS JUST IN LOVE, THAT'S ALL...

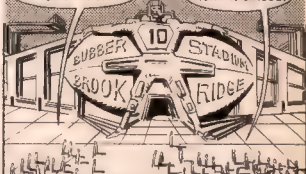
YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME, BUT IF YOU REALLY MEANT IT YOU'D TAKE ME OUT OF THIS CRUMMY APARTMENT... YOU'D FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE REAL MONEY...



THE CITY BUILT A BEAUTIFUL NEW STADIUM FOR BUBBER... A MAGNIFICENT MONUMENT TO ALL HE HAD DONE FOR OUR TOWN. BROOKRIDGE HAD BECOME QUITE WEALTHY... IT WAS THEIR WAY OF SAYING "THANKS"...

MY GOD! WHAT A MONSTROSITY!

LOOKS LIKE A ROMAN CIRCUS!



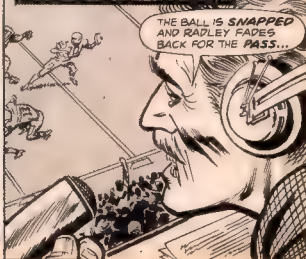
BUBBER!  
BUBBER!  
BUBBER!

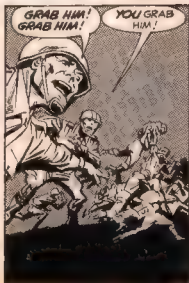
...AND RUNNING ONTO THE FIELD NOW IS THIS FABULOUS NEW STADIUM'S NAME-SAKE: BUBBER RADLEY! FOLKS, WILL YOU LISTEN TO THAT CROWD!



IT WAS OUR SON'S FINEST MOMENT...

THE BALL IS SNAPPED AND RADLEY FADES BACK FOR THE PASS...



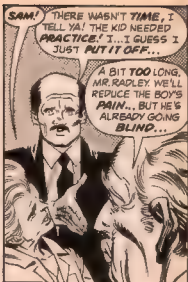




A TUMOR?  
WHERE?  
WHEN?

AT THE BASE OF HIS  
BRAIN, MRS. RADLEY...  
IT'S WHAT CAUSED THESE  
SUDDEN ATTACKS OF  
VIOLENCE IN YOUR SON.  
HE'S TOTALLY UNRE-  
SPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

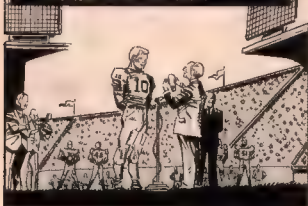
MAY I ASK  
WHY THIS WASN'T  
ATTENDED TO  
MONTHS AGO?  
DR CONNELLY  
TELLS ME THE  
TUMOR WAS  
DISCOVERED LAST  
MAY.



SAM! THERE WASN'T TIME, I  
TELL YA! THE KID NEEDED  
PRACTICE! I...I GUESS I  
JUST PUT IT OFF...

A BIT TOO LONG.  
MR. RADLEY, WE'LL  
REDUCE THE BOY'S  
PAIN... BUT HE'S  
ALREADY GOING  
BLIND...

IT WAS A **TERRIBLE** TIME FOR ALL OF US. BUT THE  
TOWN **RALLIED**, BUBBER WAS **CLEARED** IN COURT  
AND THE CITY HELD A BEAUTIFUL **CEREMONY** IN  
HIS HONOR AT BUBBER'S **OWN** STADIUM. I WAS  
SO **PROUD** OF HIM THAT DAY...



YOU KNOW THE **REST** OF  
THE STORY, MR.  
MCCORMICK.

DO I? BUBBER WAS  
**INCREDIBLY** STRONG,  
MRS. RADLEY... BUT NOT  
THAT STRONG...



DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT **THIS** IS?

GR  
MC

WHY,  
NO...  
I...

YOUR HUSBAND WORKED  
FOR THE **ALLIED CHEMI-  
CAL CORP.** DIDN'T HE, MRS.  
RADLEY? YOU WOULD THERE-  
FORE, BE SOMEWHAT FAMI-  
LIAR WITH THE TYPES OF  
**COMPOUNDS** HE WAS  
DEALING WITH-- **THIS**  
COMPOUND, FOR INSTANCE--  
**C6-80.**



C6-80 IS A **HIGHLY CORROSIVE**  
ACID, MRS. RADLEY... SO CORROSIVE  
THAT **ENOUGH** OF IT, OVER A LONG  
ENOUGH PERIOD OF TIME, COULD  
EAT THROUGH A **STEEL GIRDER...**  
OR A **CONCRETE BLOCK...**



NO, I DON'T  
KNOW ANY-  
THING ABOUT...

THEY **BETRAYED** HIM, DIDN'T  
THEY, DELLAH?--YOUR HUSBAND  
THE **MAYOR**, THE **WHOLE**  
TOWN... IN THE END YOU EVEN  
BLAMED **YOURSELF.**

YOU WERE THERE  
AT THE STADIUM,  
WEREN'T YOU--ONLY  
DAYS BEFORE THE  
CEREMONY. YOU  
WENT AT **NIGHT**  
AND YOU TOOK  
**SEVERAL** OF  
THESE LITTLE  
**GREEN TUBES**  
WITH YOU...

THEN YOU  
WENT TO  
BUBBER'S  
**CELL** AND  
TOLD HIM  
WHAT TO DO...  
**SPOKE** TO  
HIM THROUGH  
HIS **PALM**,  
THE WAY ONLY  
YOU KNEW  
HOW TO DO...





"ISN'T THAT WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED, MRS. RADLEY?"

...AND SO WE, THE CITIZENS OF BROOKBRIDGE, PROUDLY PRESENT THE *BROOKBRIDGE MEDAL OF COURAGE* TO OUR TOWN'S FIRST CITIZEN...THE YOUNG MAN WHO PUT OUR CITY ON THE MAP...  
**BUBBER!**



**BUBBER!**  
**BUBBER!**  
**BUBBER!**



...UH...SON,  
**THIS WAY...  
OVER HERE.**

WHERE'S WE  
GOING?...



WHAT THE HELL  
IS THIS?

SAM, CAN'T YOU  
CONTROL YOUR  
KID?



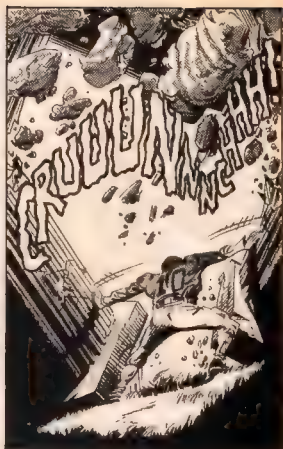
...UH...**BUBBER...**  
WHAT'RE YOU  
DOIN'?

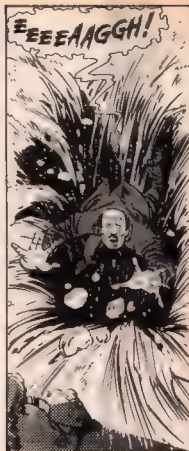
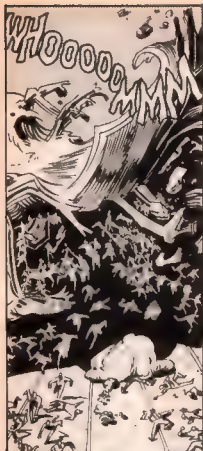


THE KID'S LOST  
HIS **MARBLES**  
AS WELL AS  
HIS EYES...

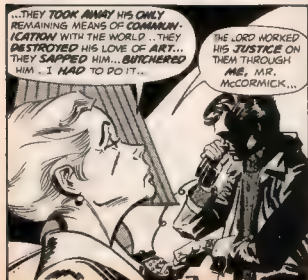
**REALLY, MR.  
RADLEY...THIS  
IS MOST  
EMBARRASSING...**



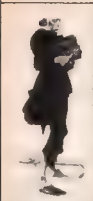








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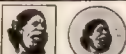
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Attention Collectors! The Warren Pub. House tote bags from 73 & 74 N.Y. Comic Art Conventions are made of heavy weight vinyl. They're yellow with color-rip handles. 17" x 16" & perfect way to transport your collection. Cents with your favorite characters on the bags!



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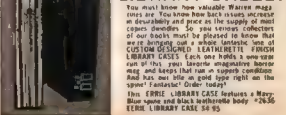
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Deluxe Made in Hollywood. And worth every penny they cost. These are actual photos of the ape masks we are offering for sale. The three beautiful, high quality vinyl, full over-the-head masks are realistic reproductions of the movie ape-faces. All of them have realistic hair framing the expressive features. All are realistically colored to resemble the professional appliances used in the PLANET OF THE APES films. Quality masks like these 3 are seldom offered for sale to the public. This may be your only chance to order them. Film your own PLANET OF THE APES sequel. Be the hit of a party. Put on a business suit and an ape head ... a la Cornelius!

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## SPIRIT CLASSICS-REPRINTS OF VINTAGE SPIRIT STORIES

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**SPIRIT BAG #2** August to October 1940. The 2-faced SPIRIT slaps the underworld, seems to be going cat, glombers Dr. Colton, The Mortemobile, and Drags the Human Ape, as well as other hounds. Meanwhile, Ebony burns to see through walls, which is to his everlasting chagrin! #2113 SPIRIT BAG #2/35-95

**SPIRIT BAG #3** October to December 1940. THE SPIRIT joins the US espionage service, but still keeps fighting such baddies as The Black Queen and Slim Pickles and his gang. But keep your eyes on the tale of enemy 12001! Plus, Will Eisner talks about the birth of his classic comic strip. #2160 SPIRIT BAG #3/35-95

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## PLANET OF THE APES



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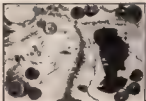


**LONE RANGER #3**  
#2676 \$1.39

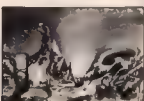
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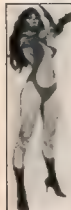
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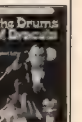
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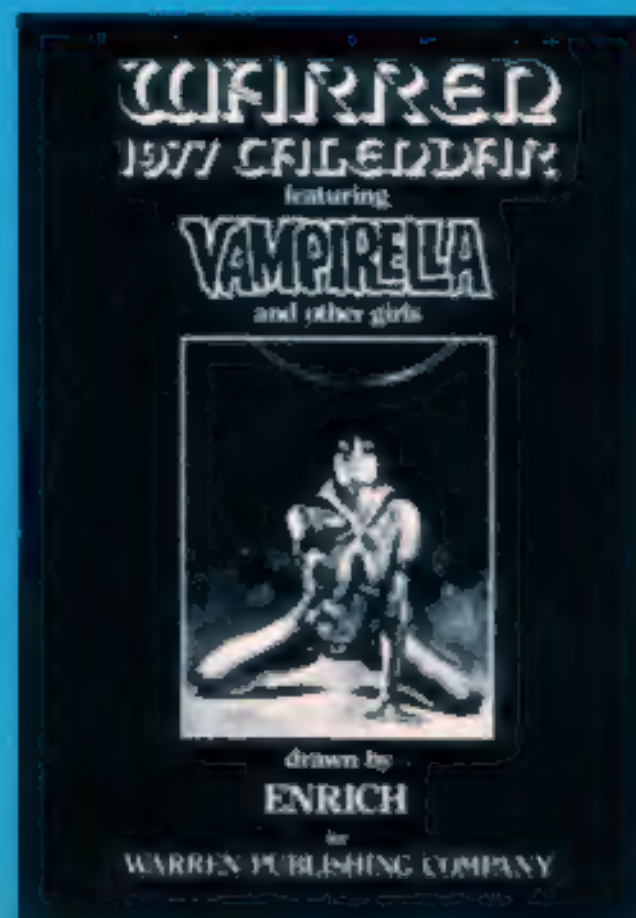
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